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UTILITY PATENT**APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL**(Only for new nonprovisional applications
under 37 CFR 1.53(b))Attorney
Docket No.

000348

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First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

Hiroshi BABA

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APPLICATION ELEMENTS FOR:
**PHASE COMPARATOR AND METHOD OF
CONTROLLING POWER SAVING OPERATION OF
THE SAME, AND SEMICONDUCTOR
INTEGRATED CIRCUIT**ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
BOX PATENT APPLICATIONS
Washington, D.C. 202311. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (Incorporated within this form)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)2. ☒ Specification Total Pages **[32]**3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) Total Sheets **[15]**4. ☒ Oath or Declaration Total Pages **[5]**a. ☒ Newly executed (original)b. ☐ Copy from prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed).i. ☐ Deletion of Inventor(s)Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in prior application,
see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).5. ☐ Incorporation by reference (useable if box 4b is checked)The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under
box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is incorporated by
reference therein.6. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)a. ☐ Computer Readable Copyb. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)c. ☐ Statement Verifying identity of above copies**ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS**8. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet and document(s))9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee)☒ Power of Attorney

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10. ☐ English translation Document (if applicable)

11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement

☐ Copies of IDS Citations

12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment

13. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)

14. ☐ Small Entity Statement(s)

☐ Statement filed in prior application
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a. Priority of _____ application no's. _____ filed on _____ is claimed under 35 USC 119. The certified copies/copy have/has been filed in prior application Serial No. _____.
(For Continuing Applications, if applicable).

16. ☐ Other _____

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

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FEE TRANSMITTAL	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee
The filing fee is calculated below				\$690.00
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Independent Claims	5-3	2	x \$78.00	156.00
Multiple Dependent Claims			\$260.00	
Basic Filing Fee				846.00
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- ☒ [XX] A check in the amount of \$886.00 is enclosed to cover the filing fee of \$846.00 and the assignment recordation fee of \$40.00.
- ☐ [] Please charge our Deposit Account No. **01-2340** in the total amount of to cover the filing fee and the assignment recordation fee. A duplicate of this sheet is attached.
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8. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI
McLELAND & NAUGHTON
1725 K Street, N.W. Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20006
Telephone: (202) 659-2930
Facsimile: (202) 887-0357

SUBMITTED BY

Typed or Printed Name **Ronald F. Naughton**

Reg. No. **24,616**

Signature

Ronald F. Naughton

Date: **March 20, 2000**

RFN/llf

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, Hiroshi Baba, a citizen of Japan residing at Satsuma-gun, Kagoshima, Japan have invented certain new and useful improvements in

PHASE COMPARATOR AND METHOD OF CONTROLLING POWER SAVING OPERATION OF THE SAME, AND SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT

of which the following is a specification : -

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

PHASE COMPARATOR AND METHOD OF CONTROLLING
POWER SAVING OPERATION OF THE SAME, AND
SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention generally relates to
PLL frequency synthesizers, and, more particularly,
10 to a method of controlling a phase comparator for
performing a power saving operation and a
semiconductor circuit.

2. Description of the Related Art

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a
15 conventional PLL frequency synthesizer. The PLL
frequency synthesizer comprises a voltage control
oscillator 102, a phase comparator unit 101, a low
pass filter 106, and a microcomputer 108. The phase
comparator unit 101 receives a comparison signal
20 through an input terminal Fin and a reference signal
through an input terminal OSCin. A capacitor 105
removes the DC component from the output of the
voltage control oscillator 102 to obtain the
comparison signal. A capacitor 104 removes the DC
25 component from a reference frequency signal 103 to
obtain the reference signal. The frequencies of the
comparison signal and the reference signal are
divided at respective frequency dividing rates, and
the phases of both signals are compared. The phase
30 comparator unit 101 then outputs through an output
terminal Do a signal representing the phase
difference between the comparison signal and the
reference signal. The low pass filter 106 removes
the high-frequency component from the phase
35 difference signal and then inputs the phase
difference signal into the voltage control
oscillator 102 so as to control the oscillation

frequency of the voltage control oscillator 102. The output signal 107 of the PLL frequency synthesizer is the output signal of the voltage control oscillator 102. The frequency of the output
5 signal 107 can be varied at will by varying the frequency dividing rates inputted from the microcomputer 108 into the phase comparator unit 101 through its input terminals CLK, DT, and LE.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of the phase
10 comparator unit 101 of the conventional PLL frequency synthesizer of FIG. 1. The phase comparator unit 101 comprises a reference signal frequency dividing unit 202, a frequency divider 204, a comparison signal frequency dividing unit 205, a
15 phase comparator 208, a charge pump 209, a power saving operation control circuit 212, and a control circuit 213. A reference signal 221 is inputted into a reference counter 203 of the reference signal frequency dividing unit 202 via an input buffer 201.
20 After the frequency of the reference signal 221 is divided at a predetermined frequency dividing rate, the reference signal frequency dividing unit 202 supplies the divided reference signal to one of two input terminals of the phase comparator 208. After
25 the frequency divider 204 divides the frequency of a comparison signal 222 at a predetermined frequency dividing rate, the comparison signal 222 is inputted into a swallow counter 206 and a main counter 207 of the comparison signal frequency dividing unit 205.
30 The frequency of the comparison signal 222 is then divided again at a predetermined frequency dividing rate, and is inputted into the other input terminal of the phase comparator 208. The phase comparator 208 compares the phases of the two signals, and in
35 accordance with the phase difference, outputs a phase difference signal 227 through the charge pump 209 and the output terminal Do. The output of the

phase comparator 208 is also inputted into a digital lock detector 210, so that a lock signal 228 representing the phase synchronization state of the PLL frequency synthesizer is outputted through an LD terminal. An output select circuit 211, under the control of the control circuit 213, selects a monitor signal 229 from the two signals inputted into the phase comparator 208, and outputs the monitor signal 229 through an Fout terminal. The power saving operation control circuit 212 receives the output signal of the input buffer 201 and the output signal of the frequency divider 204, and controls the power saving operations of the reference signal frequency dividing unit 202, the comparison signal frequency dividing unit 205, the phase comparator 208, and the digital lock detector 210.

FIG. 3 is a timing chart of signals inputted into the control circuit 213. In this timing chart, Data DT is control data for controlling the phase comparator unit 101, and a clock CLK is a clock signal in synchronization with the bits of the data DT. The data DT is stored in the control circuit 213 only when a latch enable signal LE becomes high in synchronization with the clock CLK.

FIG. 4A shows an example structure of the control data inputted into the reference signal frequency dividing unit 202, and FIG. 4B shows an example structure of the control data inputted into the comparison signal frequency dividing unit 205. In both control data shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B, CN1 and CN2 indicate control bits for distinguishing between the control data for the reference signal frequency dividing unit 202 and the control data for the comparison signal frequency dividing unit 205. In FIG. 4A, bits 3, 4, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23, each

marked with ×, are dummy bits. In FIG. 4B, a bit 5 marked with × is a dummy bit. Both control data shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B are inputted one bit at a time, starting from the uppermost bit 23, at the timing shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 5 shows the contents of the control bits CN1 and CN2. When both control bits CN1 and CN2 are "0", the bits 3 to 23 represent the control data for the reference signal frequency dividing unit 202. When the control bit CN1 is "0" and the control bit CN2 is "1", the bits 3 to 23 represent the control data for the comparison signal frequency dividing unit 205.

The bits 5 to 18 in FIG. 4A represent the control data for setting a frequency dividing rate "R" in the reference counter 203. The bits 6 to 12 in FIG. 4B represent the control data for setting a frequency dividing rate "A" in the swallow counter 206 of the comparison signal frequency dividing unit 205. The bits 13 to 23 in FIG. 4B represent the control data for setting a frequency dividing rate "N" in the main counter 207 of the comparison signal frequency dividing unit 205. The bit 4 in FIG. 4B represents the control data for setting a frequency dividing rate "P" in the frequency divider 204. Accordingly, the comparison signal frequency dividing unit 205 shown in FIG. 2 divides the frequency of a comparison signal at $(P \times N + A)$. The bit 3 in FIG. 4B represent control data for the digital lock detector 210 and the output select circuit 211.

FIG. 6 is a block diagram of the conventional power saving operation control circuit 212 shown in FIG. 2. A power saving restriction signal PSR is inputted into an inverter 601. When the power saving restriction signal PSR is low, a power saving operation is performed. When the power

saving restriction signal PSR is high, the power saving operation is not performed. The output of the inverter 601 is inputted into an inverter 602. The output of the inverter 602 is inputted into one of the two input terminals of a NAND gate 603, the set terminal SET of a D-flip-flop 616, the reset terminal RESET of a D-flip-flop 617, and one of the two input terminals of a NAND gate 620 included in a set/reset flip-flop 621. NAND gates 619 and 620 constitute the set/reset flip-flop 621. An inverted signal XFPAR of the output signal of the frequency divider 204 is inputted into the D-input terminals of the D-flip-flops 616 and 617, and a first input terminal of a 3-input NAND gate 618. A reference signal FRAR is inputted into the other input terminal of the NAND gate 603.

Inverters 604-1 to 604-7 are cascaded, and the output terminal of the NAND gate 603 is connected to the input terminal of the inverter 604-1. The output terminal of the inverter 604-7 is connected to one of the two input terminals of a NAND gate 608. The output terminal of the NAND gate 608 is connected to the input terminal of an inverter 609, and the output terminal of the inverter 609 is connected to the input terminal of an inverter 610 and the clock input terminal CK of the D-flip-flop 616. The output terminal of the inverter 610 is connected to the inverted clock input terminal XCK of the D-flip-flop 616 and the input terminal of an inverter 611-1. Inverters 611-1 to 611-14 are cascaded, and the output of the inverter 611-14 is inputted into the input terminal of an inverter 615 and the inverted clock input terminal XCK of the D-flip-flop 617. The output of the inverter 615 is inputted into the clock input terminal CK of the D-flip-flop 617. The reset input terminal of the D-flip-flop 616 and the set input

terminal of the D-flip-flop 617 are connected to a power source Vcc.

The inverted output XQ terminal of the D-flip-flop 616 is connected to a second input terminal of the 3-input NAND gate 618, and the output Q terminal of the D-flip-flop 617 is connected to a third input terminal of the 3-input NAND gate 618. The output of the 3-input NAND gate 618 is inputted into one of the two input terminals of the NAND gate 619 included in the set/reset flip-flop 621. The output of the NAND gate 620 included in the set/reset flip-flop 621 is inputted into the other input terminal of the NAND gate 608, the other input terminal of the NAND gate 619, and the input terminal of an inverter 622. The inverter 622 outputs an internal power saving restriction signal PSRS.

FIG. 7 is a timing chart of signals in the operation of the conventional power saving operation control circuit 212 of FIG. 6. When the power saving restriction signal PSR is low, the D-flip-flop 616 is set, the D-flip-flop 617 is reset, and the output of the NAND gate 620 is high. Ten gates after the reference signal FRAR rises as the power saving restriction signal PSR becomes high, the output CK1 of the inverter 609 rises from the low-level to the high-level. At the rise of the output CK1 of the inverter 609, the D-flip-flop 616 stores the inverted signal XFPAR of the output of the frequency divider 204, and outputs a high-level signal XQ1 through the inverted output terminal XQ. Sixteen gates after the rise of the output CK1 of the inverter 609, the output CK2 of the inverter 615 rises. At the rise of the output CK2, the D-flip-flop 617 stores the inverted signal XFPAR of the output of the frequency divider 204, and outputs a high-level signal Q2 through the output terminal Q.

The output A of the 3-input NAND gate 618 becomes low, when the inverted signal XFPAR and the signals XQ1 and Q2 are all high. Accordingly, the output B of the NAND gate 619 becomes high, and the output C of the set/reset flip-flop 621 becomes low. As a result, the internal power saving restriction signal PSRS becomes high, thereby canceling the power saving state.

FIG. 8 is a flowchart of a power saving state canceling operation of the power saving operation control circuit 212. In step S1-1, the power saving restriction signal PSR rises to the high level. In step S1-2, it is determined whether the inverted signal XFPAR is high or low at the rise of the output signal CK1 of the inverter 609. If the inverted signal XFPAR is low, the operation moves on to step S1-3, in which it is determined whether the inverted signal XFPAR is high or low at the rise of the output signal CK2 of the inverter 615. If the inverted signal XFPAR is high, the operation moves on to step S1-4, in which the internal power saving state is canceled. In step S1-5, the power saving state is canceled in the reference counter 203 of the reference signal frequency dividing unit 202, the swallow counter 206 and the main counter 207 of the comparison signal frequency dividing unit 205, and the phase comparator 208. The phase difference signal 227 is then outputted through the charge pump 209.

However, there are problems with the prior art described above. FIG. 9 illustrates a first problem of the power saving operation control circuit 212 of the prior art. The first problem is that a power saving state might be wrongly canceled due to noise. The noise is caused when a power saving state is canceled as the power saving restriction signal PSR is changes from the low level

to the high level. The noise enters the reference signal FRAR and the inverted signal XFPAR of the output of the frequency divider 104. Because of this, the internal power saving restriction signal PSRS outputted from the power saving operation control circuit 212 becomes high, thereby promptly switching on the internal circuits of the phase comparator unit 101 including the reference signal frequency dividing unit 202, the comparator signal frequency dividing unit 205, and the phase comparator 208. As a result, the phases of the reference signal FRAR and the inverted signal XFPAR of the output of the frequency divider 204 are greatly shifted in relation to each other.

FIG. 10 illustrates a second problem of the power saving operation control circuit 121 of the prior art. The second problem is that, when the power saving restriction signal PSR changes from the low level to the high level to cancel a power saving state, the phase difference between the reference signal FRAR and the inverted signal XRPAR becomes constant. With the phase difference between the two signals being constant, the internal power saving restriction signal PSRS can never become high. As a result, the internal circuits of the phase comparator unit 101, including the reference signal frequency dividing unit 202, the comparison signal frequency dividing unit 205, and the phase comparator 208, are not actuated.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A general object of the present invention is to provide power saving operation control methods and devices, in which the above disadvantages are eliminated.

A more specific object of the present invention is to provide a power saving operation

control method and a power saving operation control device for phase comparators, in which canceling of a power saving state can be accurately and stably carried out.

5 The above objects of the present invention are achieved by a method of controlling a power saving operation for a phase comparator unit, comprising the steps of:

10 dividing the frequency of a reference signal to generate a reference frequency divided signal;

15 dividing the frequency of an input signal to generate a comparison frequency divided signal whose phase is to be compared with the phase of the reference frequency divided signal;

 comparing the phases of the reference frequency divided signal and the comparison frequency divided signal so as to output a comparison result;

20 generating a power saving state canceling signal in accordance with the reference frequency divided signal and the comparison frequency divided signal;

25 generating a first initializing signal for initializing the output of the step of dividing the frequency of a reference signal in accordance with the power saving state canceling signal; and

30 generating a second initializing signal for initializing the output of the step of dividing the frequency of an input signal in accordance with the power saving state canceling signal.

35 According to the above method, when a change is detected in the outputs of the step of dividing the frequency of a reference signal and the step of dividing the frequency of an input signal, the step of dividing the frequency of a reference signal is reset in accordance with the first

initializing signal, and the step of dividing the frequency of an input signal is reset in accordance with the second initializing signal. By doing so, the phase difference between the two signals

5 inputted into the phase comparator in a power saving cancelled state becomes smaller than a predetermined value. Accordingly, accurate and stable canceling of a power saving state can be carried out. By the above method of the present invention, a power

10 saving state is not wrongly canceled due to noise or the like when the phase difference of internal signals is greater than the predetermined value. Also, wrong canceling of a power saving state due to the relationship between the timing of a power

15 saving restriction signal rise and the phases of the reference signal and the output of the frequency divider can be prevented.

The above objects of the present invention are also achieved by a power saving operation control circuit for a phase comparator unit,

20 comprising:

a reference signal frequency dividing unit which divides the frequency of a reference signal to generate a reference frequency divided signal;

25 a comparison signal dividing unit which divides the frequency of an input signal to generate a comparison frequency divided signal whose phase is to be compared with a phase of the reference frequency divided signal;

30 a phase comparator which compares the phases of the reference frequency divided signal and the comparison frequency divided signal so as to output a comparison result;

a canceling signal generator which

35 generates a power saving state canceling signal in accordance with the reference frequency divided signal and the comparison frequency divided signal;

a first initializing signal generator
which generates a first initializing signal for
initializing the reference signal frequency dividing
unit in accordance with the power saving state

5 canceling signal; and

a second initializing signal generator
which generates a second initializing signal for
initializing the comparison signal frequency
dividing unit in accordance with the power saving
10 state canceling signal.

In the above power saving operation
control circuit, when a change is detected in the
outputs of the reference signal frequency dividing
unit and the comparison signal frequency dividing
15 unit, the reference signal frequency dividing unit
is reset in accordance with the first initializing
signal, and the comparison signal frequency dividing
unit is reset in accordance with the second
initializing signal. By doing so, the phase
20 difference between the two signals inputted into the
phase comparator in a power saving cancelled state
becomes smaller than a predetermined value.
Accordingly, accurate and stable canceling of a
power saving state can be carried out. Thus, a
25 power saving state is not wrongly canceled due to
noise or the like when the phase difference of
internal signals is greater than the predetermined
value. Also, wrong canceling of a power saving
state due to the relationship between the timing of
30 a power saving restriction signal rise and the
phases of the reference signal and the output of the
frequency divider can be prevented.

The above objects of the present invention
are also achieved by a PLL frequency synthesizer
35 comprising:

a phase comparator unit;

a loop filter which receives the output of

a voltage control oscillator which receives the output of the loop filter,

5 a reference signal frequency dividing unit
which divides the frequency of a reference signal to
generate a reference frequency divided signal;

15 a phase comparator which compares the
phases of the reference frequency divided signal and
the comparison frequency divided signal so as to
output a comparison result;

a first initializing signal generator
which generates a first initializing signal for
initializing the reference signal frequency dividing
25 unit in accordance with the power saving state
canceling signal; and

With this PLL frequency synthesizer, the same effects as with the power saving operation control circuit of the present invention can be obtained.

The above objects of the present invention are also achieved by a semiconductor integrated

circuit including the above PLL frequency synthesizer.

With this semiconductor integrated circuit, the same effects as with the power saving operation control circuit of the present invention can be obtained.

The above objects of the present invention are also achieved by a transmitter-receiver including the above PLL frequency synthesizer.

With this transmitter-receiver, the same effects as with the power saving operation control circuit of the present invention can be obtained.

The above and other objects and features of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a conventional PLL frequency synthesizer;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a phase comparator unit of the conventional PLL frequency synthesizer of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a timing chart of signals inputted into a control circuit of the phase comparator unit of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4A shows an example structure of control data inputted into a reference signal frequency dividing unit of the conventional phase comparator unit of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4B shows an example structure of control data inputted into a comparison signal frequency dividing unit of the conventional phase comparator unit of FIG. 2;

FIG. 5 shows the contents of control bits of the control data shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B;

FIG. 6 is a block diagram of a power

saving operation control circuit of the conventional phase comparator unit of FIG. 2;

FIG. 7 is a timing chart of signals in the operation of the power saving operation control circuit of FIG. 6;

FIG. 8 is a flowchart of a power saving state canceling operation of the power saving operation control circuit of FIG. 6;

FIG. 9 illustrates a first problem of the conventional phase comparator unit;

FIG. 10 illustrates a second problem of the conventional phase comparator unit;

FIG. 11 is a block diagram of a phase comparator unit of the present invention;

FIG. 12 is a block diagram of a power saving operation control circuit of the present invention;

FIG. 13 is a timing chart of signals in the power saving operation control circuit of the present invention;

FIG. 14 is a flowchart of a power saving state canceling operation of the power saving operation control circuit of the present invention; and

FIG. 15 is a block diagram of a transmitter-receiver in accordance with the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The following is a description of embodiments of the present invention, with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 11 shows a phase comparator unit 101 of a first embodiment of the present invention. In this figure, the same components as in FIG. 2 are denoted by the same reference numerals. A power saving operation control circuit 1101 of this

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FIG. 13 is a timing chart of signals in the power saving operation control circuit of the present invention. When the power saving restriction signal PSR is low, the D-flip-flops 1201, 1202, 1204, and 1205 are in a reset state, the D-flip-flops 1209 and 1214 are in a set state, and the internal power saving restriction signals PSRS1, PSRS2, and PSRS3 are low. When the power saving restriction signal PSR changes from the low level to the high level, the reference counter 203 of the reference signal frequency dividing unit 202, and the swallow counter 206 and the main counter 207 of the counter signal frequency dividing unit 205 start operating, thereby outputting the frequency-divided outputs FR and FP. After the frequency-divided output FR of the reference counter 203 is outputted twice and the frequency-divided output FP of the swallow counter 206 and the main counter 207 is also outputted twice, the internal power saving

restriction signal PSRS1 changes from the low level to the high level.

As the internal power saving restriction signal PSRS1 becomes high, the set terminal SET of the D-flip-flop 1209 becomes high, thereby canceling the set state of the D-flip-flop 1209. After that, when the reference signal FRAR rises, the output A of the D-flip-flop 1209 becomes low. The internal power saving restriction signal PSRS2 is low during the period from the time when the internal power saving restriction signal PSRS1 becomes high until the output A of the D-flip-flop 1209 becomes low. When the internal power saving restriction signal PSRS1 becomes high, the set terminal SET of the D-flip-flop 1214 also becomes high, thereby canceling the set state of the D-flip-flop 1214. When the output signal FPAR of the frequency divider 204 rises after the canceling of the set state of the D-flip-flop 1214, the output B of the D-flip-flop 1214 becomes low. The internal power saving restriction signal PSRS3 is low during the period from the time when the internal power saving restriction signal PSRS1 becomes high until the output B of the D-flip-flop 1214 becomes low. The internal power saving restriction signal PSRS2 resets the reference counter 203 of the reference signal frequency dividing unit 202, and the internal power saving restriction signal PSRS3 resets the swallow counter 206 and the main counter 207 of the comparison signal frequency dividing unit 205. The difference TCX between the low-level period of the internal power saving restriction signal PSRS2 and the low-level period of the internal power saving restriction signal PSRS3 is equal to or shorter than the cycle τ_{fp} of the output signal FPAR of the frequency divider 204 or the cycle τ_{fr} of the reference signal FRAR, whichever is longer.

FIG. 14 is a flowchart of the power saving state canceling operation of the power saving operation control circuit of the present invention. In step S2-1, the power saving restriction signal PSR becomes high. In step S2-2, the reference counter 203, the swallow counter 206, and the main counter 207 are switched on. In step S2-3, it is determined whether the output FR of the reference counter 203 and the output FP of the swallow counter 206 and the main counter 207 are outputted. If both outputs FR and FP are outputted, the internal power saving restriction signal PSRS 1 becomes high, the power saving state of the phase comparator 208 is canceled, and the phase difference signal 227 is outputted through the charge pump 209 in step S2-4. In step S2-5, the internal power saving signals PSRS2 and PSRS3 are outputted so that the reference counter 203, the swallow counter 206, and the main counter 207 are reset.

As described above, when a change is detected in the outputs of the reference signal frequency dividing unit 202 constituted by the reference counter 203 and the counter signal frequency dividing unit 205 constituted by the swallow counter 206 and the main counter 207, the reference signal frequency dividing unit 202 is reset in accordance with the internal power saving restriction signal PSRS2, and the comparison signal frequency dividing unit 205 is reset in accordance with the power saving restriction signal PSRS3. By doing so, the phase difference between the two signals inputted into the phase comparator 208 in a power saving cancelled state becomes smaller than a predetermined value. Accordingly, accurate and stable canceling of a power saving state can be carried out. Thus, a power saving state is not wrongly canceled due to noise or the like when the

phase difference of internal signals is greater than the predetermined value. Also, wrong canceling of a power saving state due to the relationship between the timing of a power saving restriction signal rise and the phases of the reference signal and the output of the frequency divider can be prevented. If the phase comparator unit 101 of the PLL frequency synthesizer of FIG. 1 is replaced with the phase comparator unit of the present invention, the frequency dividing rate R of the reference counter 203, the frequency dividing rate A of the swallow counter 206, and the frequency dividing rate N of the main counter 207 can be set in accordance with the signals DT, CLK, and LE. Thus, output signals having desired frequencies can be readily obtained, and a power saving state is not wrongly canceled due to noise.

FIG. 15 shows a transmitter-receiver in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.

At the time of reception, following a program stored in a PROM 1515, a microcomputer 1512 captures a receiving channel designated by a KEY 1514. The microcomputer 1512 then sets a frequency of a PLL frequency synthesizer 1505 of a reception unit of the present invention. The setting of the frequency is carried out by setting the frequency dividing rates of the reference counter of the reference signal frequency dividing unit, and the swallow counter and the main counter of the comparison signal frequency dividing unit in the phase comparator unit. The receiving channel designated by the KEY 1514 and a receiving condition are displayed on a liquid crystal display (LCD) 1513. An antenna 1501 receiving a reception signal sends the reception signal to an antenna switch 1502. The antenna switch 1502 sends a signal from the antenna

1501 to the side A, when the transmitter-receiver is
in a receiving state. Receiving the signal from the
antenna switch 1502, a reception amplifier 1503
amplifies the weak signal. The amplified signal is
5 then supplied to a mixer 1504, and is mixed with an
output signal generated from the PLL frequency
synthesizer 1505 of the reception unit. The PLL
frequency synthesizer 1505 comprises a voltage
control oscillator (VCO) 1506, a phase comparator
10 unit 1507 of the present invention, and a low pass
filter (LPF) 1508. In accordance with a power
saving operation control signal, the PLL frequency
synthesizer 1505 performs the power saving operation
control. The output of the mixer 1504 is amplified
15 by an IF amplifier 1509, and is further amplified by
an audio frequency (AF) amplifier 1510. The
amplified output of the mixer 1504 is converted into
sound and outputted through a speaker 1511.

At the time of transmission, following a
20 program stored in the PROM 1515, the microcomputer
1512 captures a transmission channel designated by
the KEY 1514. The microcomputer 1512 then sets the
frequency of a PLL frequency synthesizer 1519 of a
transmission unit of the present invention. The
25 setting of the frequency is carried out by setting
the frequency dividing rates of the reference
counter of the reference signal frequency dividing
unit, and the swallow counter and the main counter
of the comparison signal frequency dividing unit in
30 the phase comparator unit. The transmission channel
designated by the KEY 1514 and a transmission
condition are displayed on the liquid crystal
display (LCD) 1513. Sound inputted through a
microphone 1516 is subjected to band limitation in a
35 band pass filter (BPF) 1517. The audio signal is
then sent to the microcomputer 1512 via a MODEM 1518.
In accordance with the audio signal, the

microcomputer 1512 controls the frequency of a
signal generated from the PLL frequency synthesizer
1519 of the transmitter unit of the present
invention. The PLL frequency synthesizer 1519 of
5 the transmission unit comprises a voltage control
oscillator (VCO) 1520, a phase comparator unit 1521
of the present invention, and a low pass filter
(LPF) 1522. In accordance with a power saving
operation control signal supplied from the
10 microcomputer 1512, the PLL frequency synthesizer
1519 performs the power saving operation control.
The output of the PLL frequency synthesizer 1519 is
subjected to band limitation in a band pass filter
(BPF) 1523, and is amplified by a power amplifier
15 1524. The amplifier output is then sent to the
antenna switch 1502. When the transmitter-receiver
is in a transmission state, the antenna switch 1502
sends the signal B from the power amplifier 1524 to
the antenna 1501. The transmission signal is then
20 transmitted through the antenna 1501.

As described above, this embodiment of the
present invention provides a transmitter-receiver
including a PLL frequency synthesizer provided with
a phase comparator unit of the present invention.
25 Although the present invention is applied to a
transmitter-receiver in this embodiment, the
application of the present invention is not limited
to it. The present invention can be applied to
transceivers, communication devices, radio receivers,
30 television receivers, portable telephones, and
others.

The present invention is not limited to
the specifically disclosed embodiments, but
variations and modifications may be made without
35 departing from the scope of the present invention.

The present application is based on
Japanese priority application No. 11-120620, filed

•

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5

1. A method of controlling a power saving operation for a phase comparator unit, comprising the steps of:

10 dividing a frequency of a reference signal to generate a reference frequency divided signal;

dividing a frequency of an input signal to generate a comparison frequency divided signal a phase of which is to be compared with a phase of the reference frequency divided signal;

15 comparing the phases of the reference frequency divided signal and the comparison frequency divided signal so as to output a comparison result;

20 generating a power saving state canceling signal in accordance with the reference frequency divided signal and the comparison frequency divided signal;

25 generating a first initializing signal for initializing the output of the step of dividing the frequency of the reference signal in accordance with the power saving state canceling signal; and

30 generating a second initializing signal for initializing the output of the step of dividing the frequency of the input signal in accordance with the power saving state canceling signal.

35

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein frequency dividing rates used in the step of dividing the frequency of the reference signal and

in the step of dividing the frequency of the input signal can be set independently of each other.

5

3. A power saving operation control circuit for a phase comparator unit, comprising:

10 a reference signal frequency dividing unit which divides a frequency of a reference signal to generate a reference frequency divided signal;

15 a comparison signal dividing unit which divides a frequency of an input signal to generate a comparison frequency divided signal whose phase is to be compared with a phase of the reference frequency divided signal;

20 a phase comparator which compares phases of the reference frequency divided signal and the comparison frequency divided signal so as to output a comparison result;

a canceling signal generator which generates a power saving state canceling signal in accordance with the reference frequency divided signal and the comparison frequency divided signal;

25 a first initializing signal generator which generates a first initializing signal for initializing the reference signal frequency dividing unit in accordance with the power saving state canceling signal; and

30 a second initializing signal generator which generates a second initializing signal for initializing the comparison signal frequency dividing unit in accordance with the power saving state canceling signal.

35

4. The power saving operation control circuit as claimed in claim 3, wherein frequency dividing rates used in the reference signal frequency dividing unit and in the comparison signal frequency dividing unit can be set independently of each other.

10

5. A PLL frequency synthesizer comprising:
a phase comparator unit;
a loop filter which receives an output of the phase comparator unit; and
15 a voltage control oscillator which receives an output of the loop filter,
the phase comparator unit comprising:
a reference signal frequency dividing unit
20 which divides a frequency of a reference signal to generate a reference frequency divided signal;
a comparison signal dividing unit which divides a frequency of an output signal of the voltage control oscillator to generate a comparison
25 frequency divided signal a phase of which is to be compared with a phase of the reference frequency divided signal;
a phase comparator which compares the phases of the reference frequency divided signal and
30 the comparison frequency divided signal so as to output a comparison result;
a canceling signal generator which generates a power saving state canceling signal in accordance with the reference frequency divided
35 signal and the comparison frequency divided signal;
a first initializing signal generator which generates a first initializing signal for

initializing the reference signal frequency dividing unit in accordance with the power saving state canceling signal; and

5 a second initializing signal generator which generates a second initializing signal for initializing the comparison signal frequency dividing unit in accordance with the power saving state canceling signal.

10

6. The PLL frequency synthesizer as claimed in claim 5, wherein frequency dividing rates
15 used in the reference signal frequency dividing unit and in the comparison signal frequency dividing unit can be set independently of each other.

20

7. A semiconductor integrated circuit including a PLL frequency synthesizer comprising:
a phase comparator unit;
25 a loop filter which receives an output of the phase comparator unit; and
a voltage control oscillator which receives an output of the loop filter,
the phase comparator unit comprising:
30 a reference signal frequency dividing unit which divides a frequency of a reference signal to generate a reference frequency divided signal;
a comparison signal dividing unit which divides a frequency of an output signal of the
35 voltage control oscillator to generate a comparison frequency divided signal a phase of which is to be compared with a phase of the reference frequency

divided signal;

a phase comparator which compares the phases of the reference frequency divided signal and the comparison frequency divided signal so as to

5 output a comparison result;

a canceling signal generator which generates a power saving state canceling signal in accordance with the reference frequency divided signal and the comparison frequency divided signal;

10 a first initializing signal generator which generates a first initializing signal for initializing the reference signal frequency dividing unit in accordance with the power saving state canceling signal; and

15 a second initializing signal generator which generates a second initializing signal for initializing the comparison signal frequency dividing unit in accordance with the power saving state canceling signal.

20

8. The semiconductor integrated circuit
25 as claimed in claim 7, wherein frequency dividing rates used in the reference signal frequency dividing unit and in the comparison signal frequency dividing unit can be set independently of each other.

30

9. A transmitter-receiver including a PLL frequency synthesizer comprising:

35 a phase comparator unit;

a loop filter which receives an output of the phase comparator unit; and

a voltage control oscillator which receives an output of the loop filter,

the phase comparator unit comprising:

a reference signal frequency dividing unit

5 which divides a frequency of a reference signal to generate a reference frequency divided signal;

a comparison signal dividing unit which divides a frequency of an output signal of the voltage control oscillator to generate a comparison
10 frequency divided signal a phase of which is to be compared with a phase of the reference frequency divided signal;

a phase comparator which compares the phases of the reference frequency divided signal and
15 the comparison frequency divided signal so as to output a comparison result;

a canceling signal generator which generates a power saving state canceling signal in accordance with the reference frequency divided
20 signal and the comparison frequency divided signal;

a first initializing signal generator which generates a first initializing signal for initializing the reference signal frequency dividing unit in accordance with the power saving state
25 canceling signal; and

a second initializing signal generator which generates a second initializing signal for initializing the comparison signal frequency dividing unit in accordance with the power saving
30 state canceling signal.

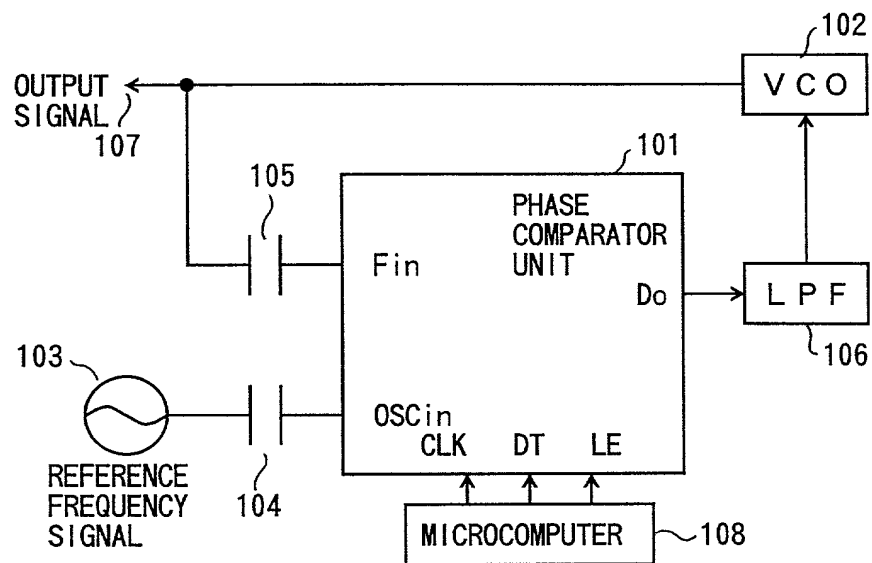
35 10. The transmitter-receiver as claimed in claim 9, wherein frequency dividing rates used in the reference signal frequency dividing unit and in

the comparison signal frequency dividing unit can be set independently of each other.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

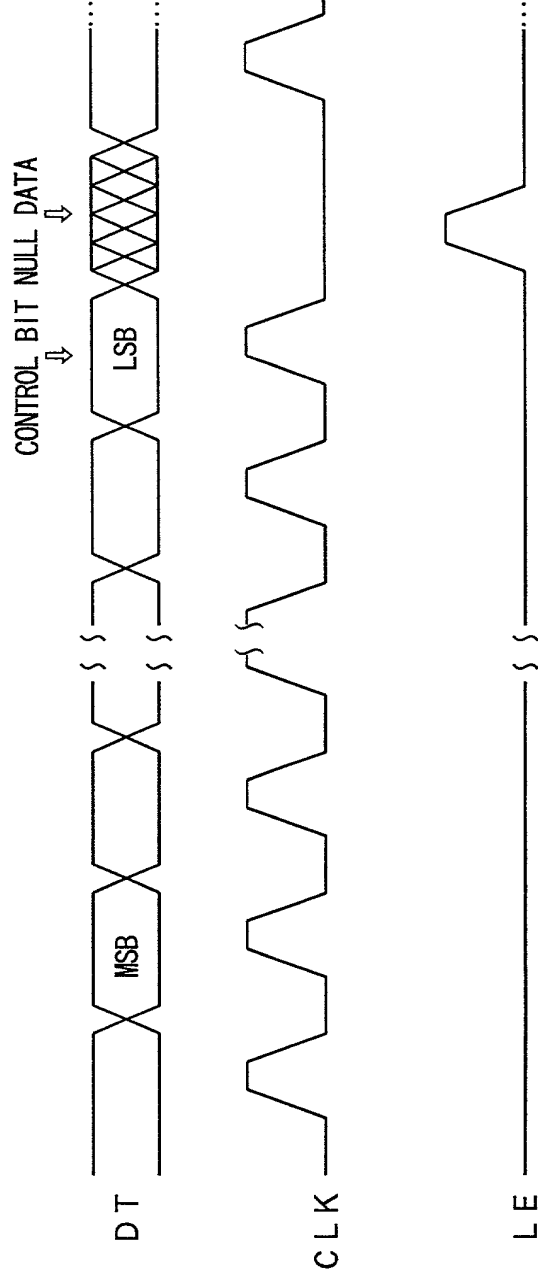
A power saving operation control method and a power saving operation control device for a phase comparator unit are provided. A power saving operation control circuit of the present invention includes: a reference signal frequency dividing unit which divides the frequency of a reference signal to generate a reference frequency divided signal; a comparison signal frequency unit which divides an input signal to generate a comparison frequency divided signal; a phase comparator which compares the phases of the reference frequency divided signal and the comparison frequency divided signal; a canceling signal generator which generates a power saving state canceling signal in accordance with the reference frequency divided signal and the comparison frequency divided signal; a first initializing signal generator which generates a first initializing signal for initializing the reference signal frequency dividing unit in accordance with the power saving state canceling signal; and a second initializing signal generator which generates a second initializing signal for initializing the comparison signal frequency dividing unit in accordance with the power saving state canceling signal.

FIG. 1 PRIOR ART



0953457, 032000

FIG. 3 PRIOR ART



[illegible][illegible]

FIG. 6 PRIOR ART

2 1 2

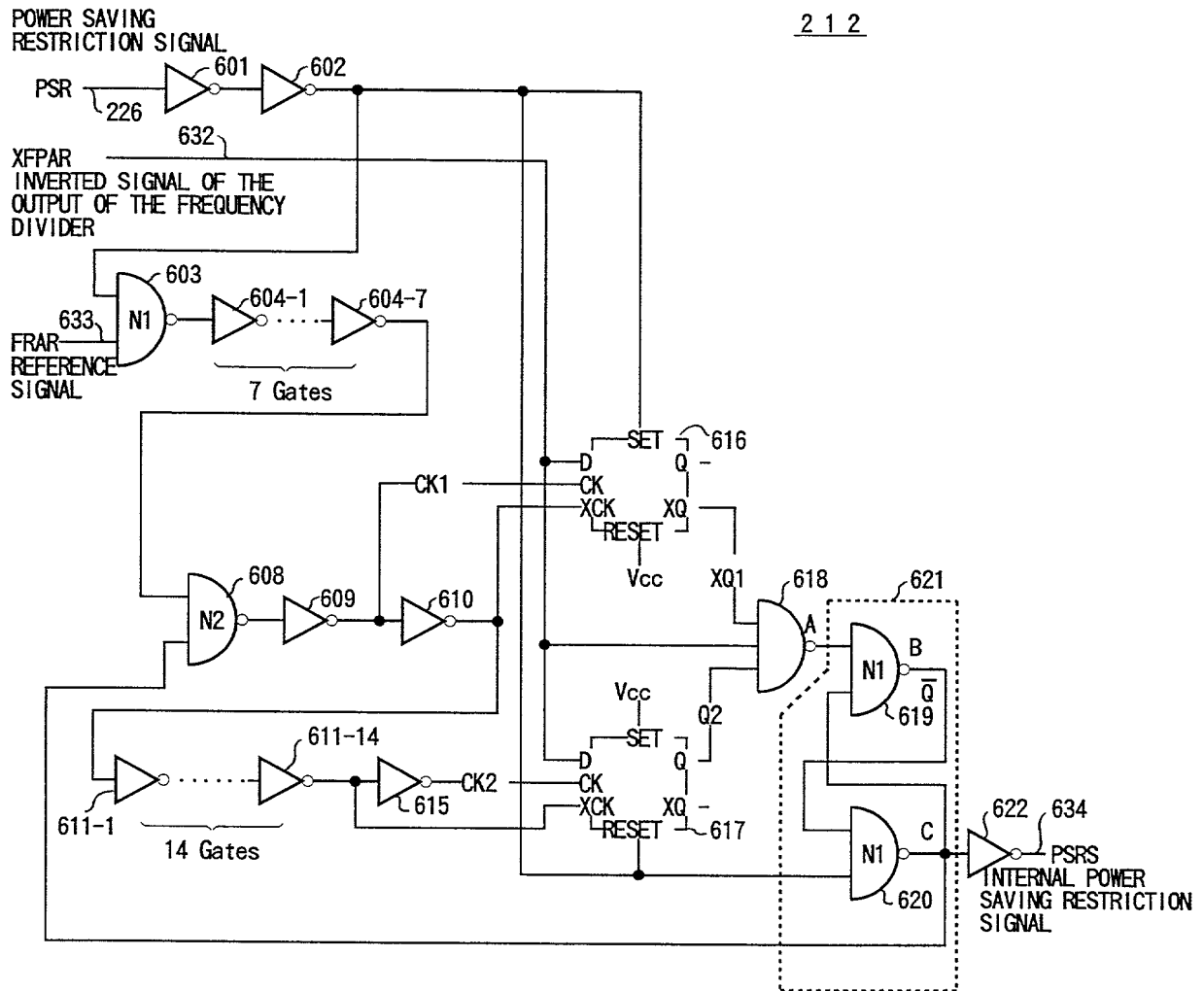


FIG.7 PRIOR ART

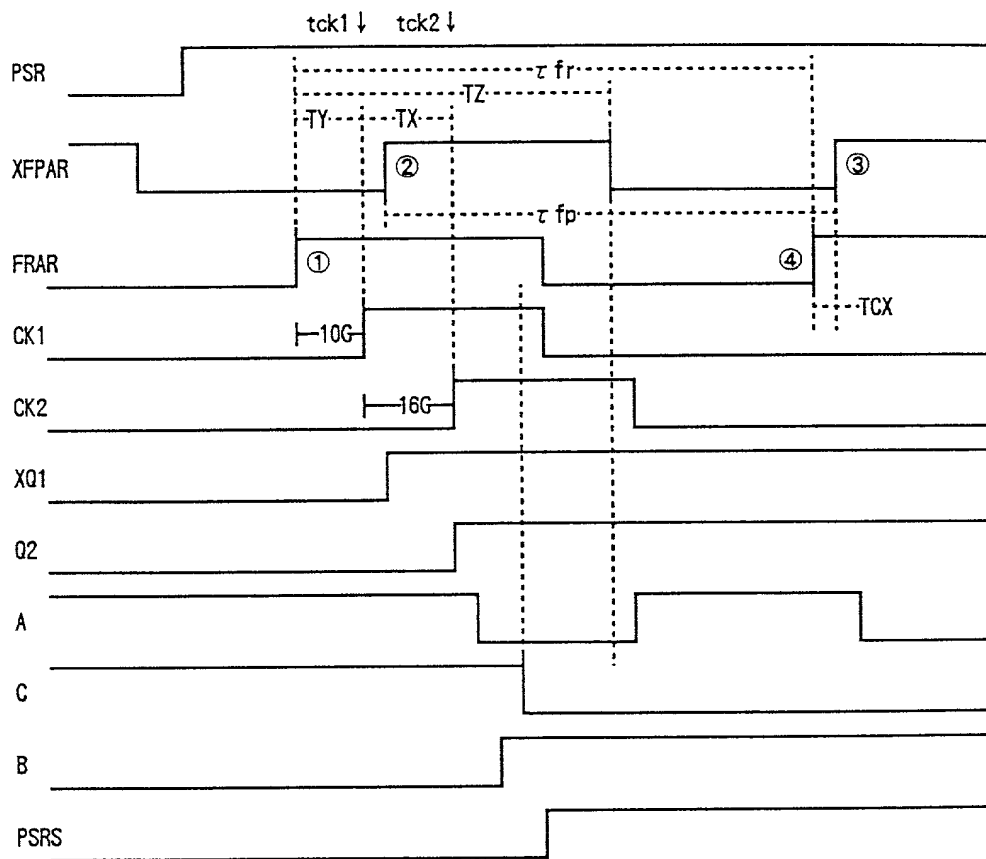


FIG. 8 PRIOR ART

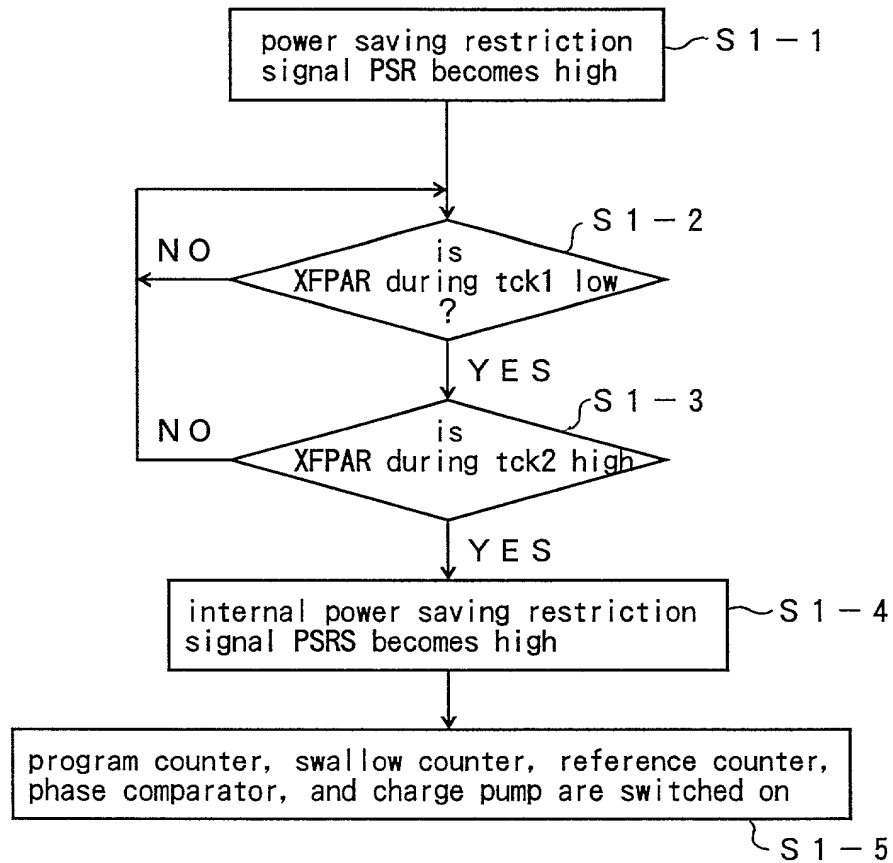


FIG. 9 PRIOR ART

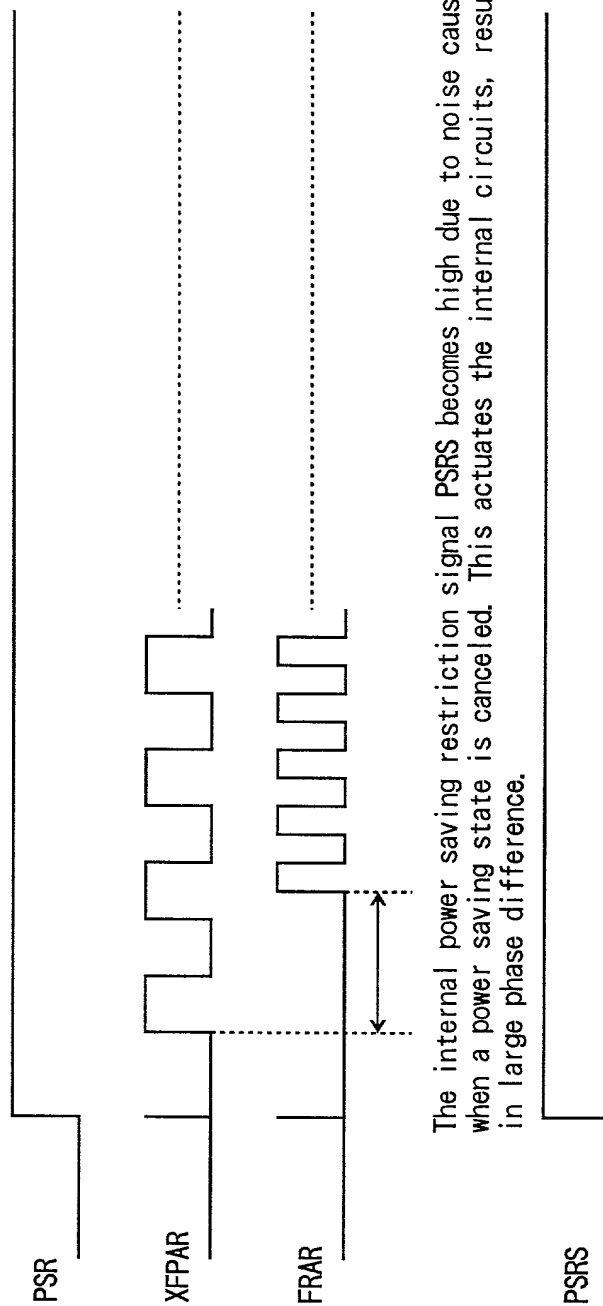


FIG. 10 PRIOR ART

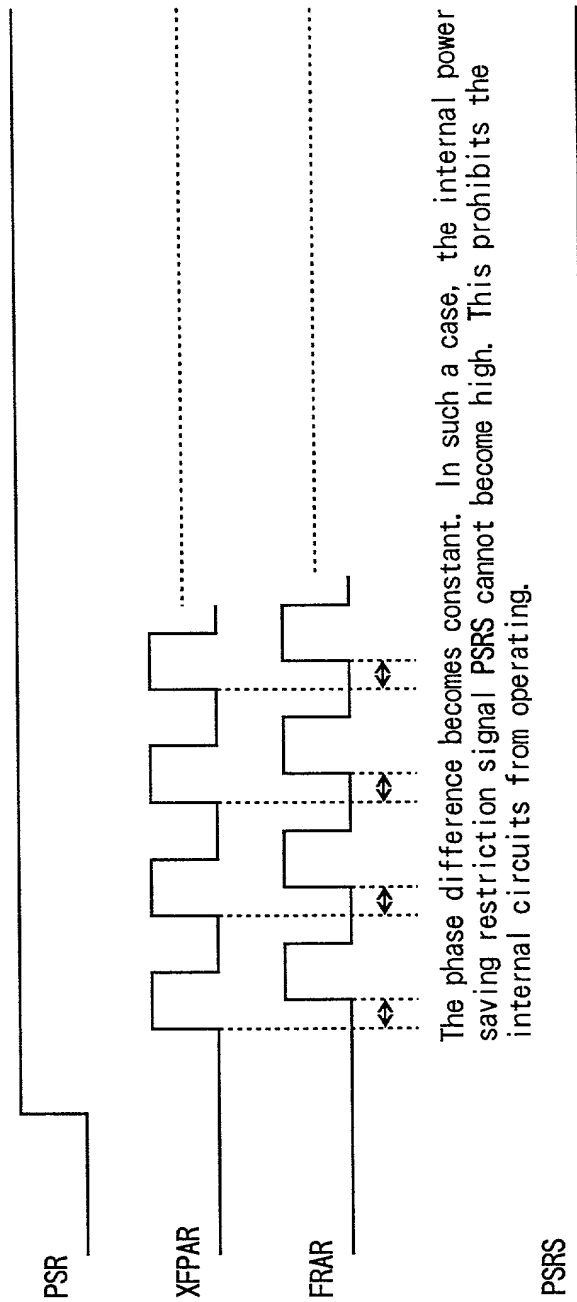


FIG. 11

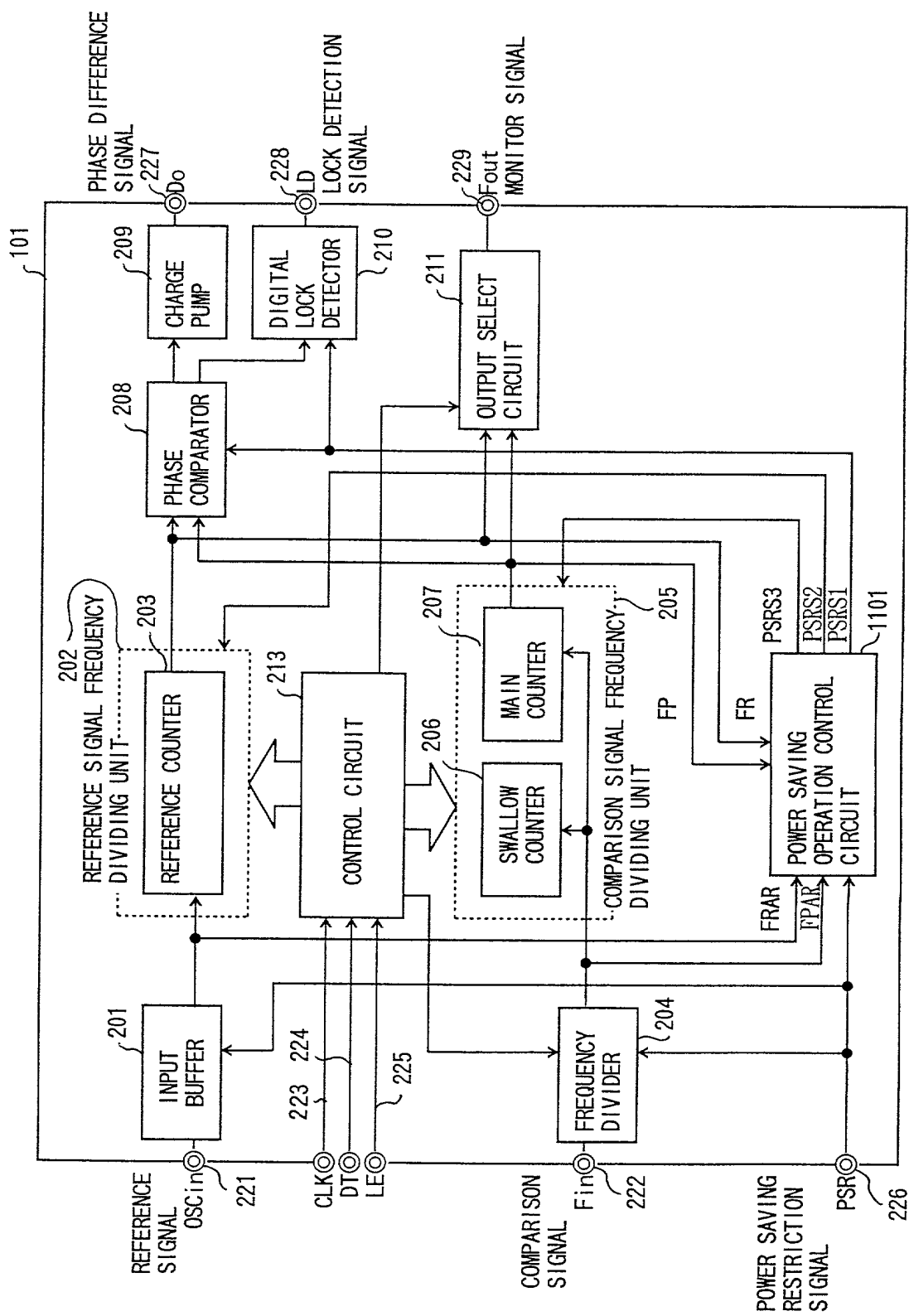


FIG. 12

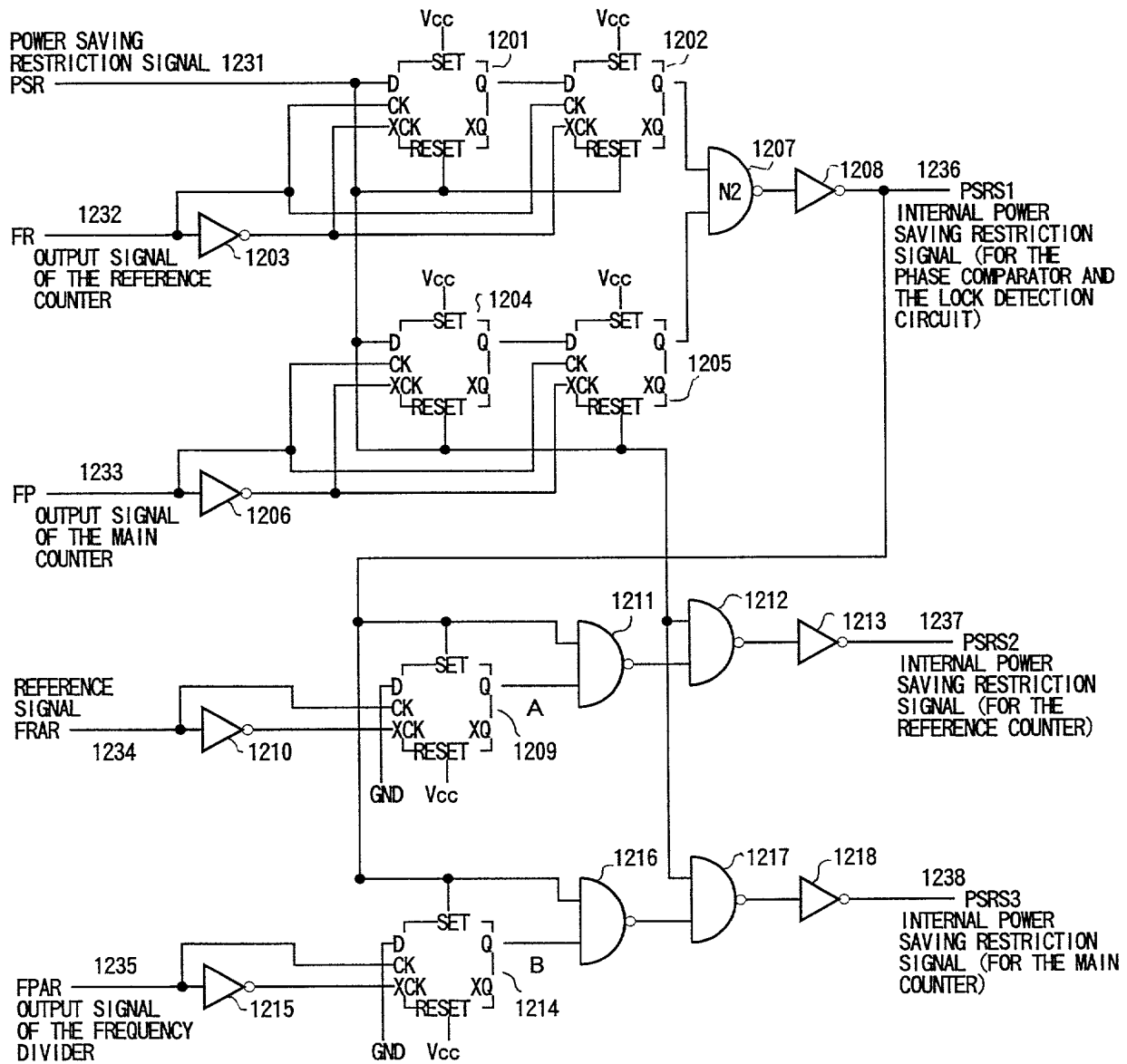


FIG.13

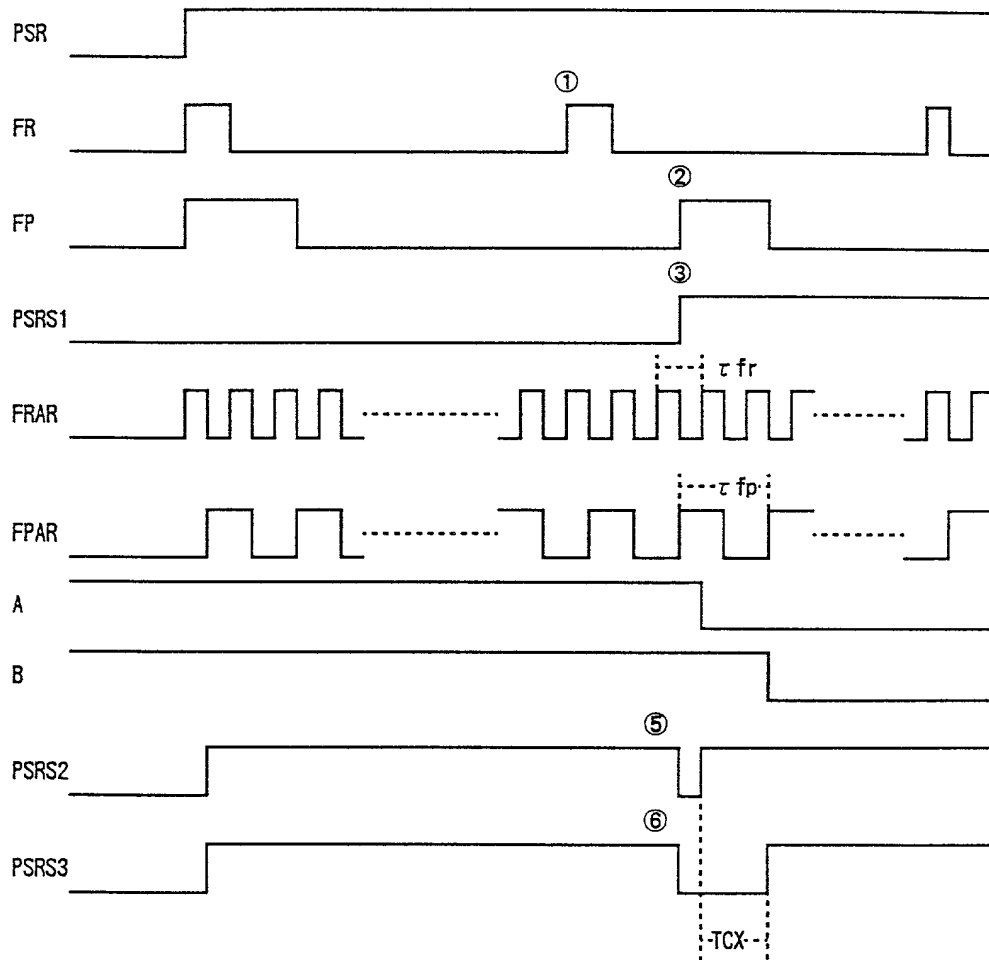
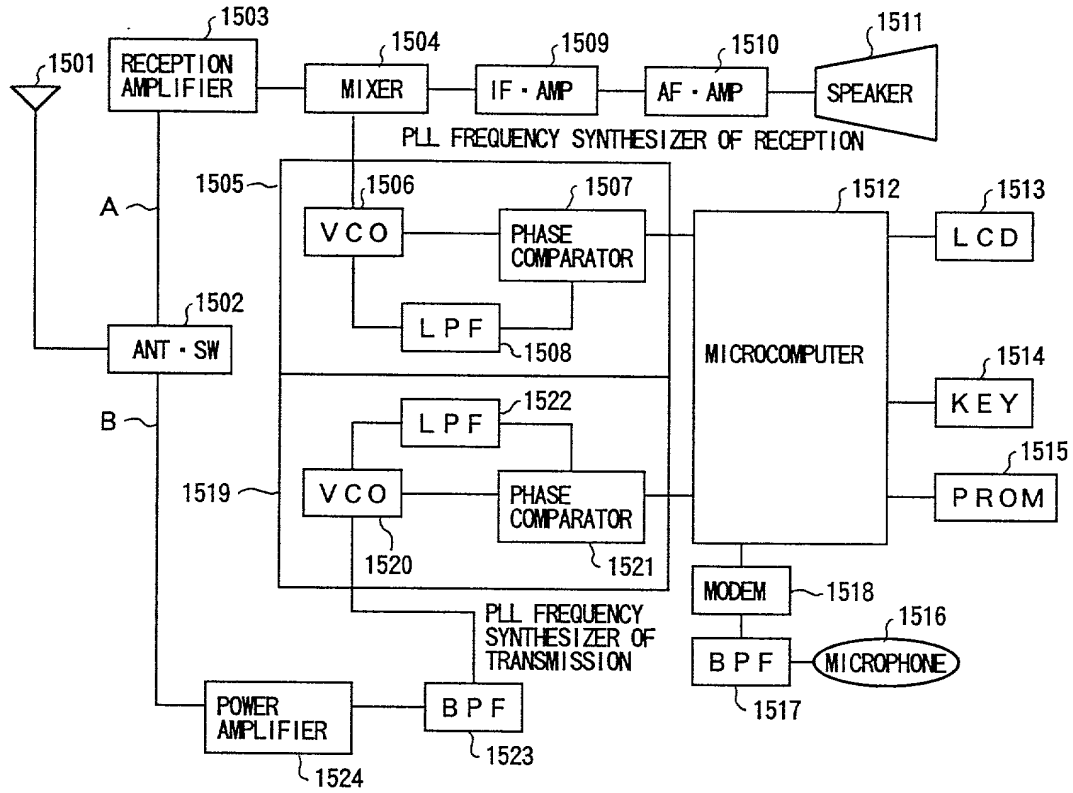


FIG. 15



Declaration and Power of Attorney for U.S. Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者であると（下記の名称が複数の場合）信じています。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

PHASE COMPARATOR AND METHOD OF
CONTROLLING POWER SAVING OPERATION
OF THE SAME, AND SEMICONDUCTOR
INTEGRATED CIRCUIT

上記発明の明細書（下記の欄でx印がついていない場合は、本書に添付）は、

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☐ 月 日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約
国際出願番号を _____ とし、
(該当する場合) _____ に訂正されました。

☐ was filed on _____
as United States Application Number or
PCT International Application Number
_____ and was amended on
_____ (if applicable).

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、内容を理解していることをここに表明します。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、運邦規則法典第37編第1条56項に定義されたとおり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認めます。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

Japanese Language Declaration (日本語宣言書)

私は、米国法典第35編119条(a)-(d)項又は365条(b)項に基づき下記の、米国外の国の少なくとも一カ国を指定している特許協力条約365(a)項に基づく国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している、本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

Prior Foreign Application(s)

外国での先行出願
No. 11-120620

Japan

27/April/1999

(Number)
(番号)

(Country)
(国名)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(出願年月日)

Priority Not Claimed
優先権主張なし

☐

(Number)
(番号)

(Country)
(国名)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(出願年月日)

☐

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(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

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(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

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I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Japanese Language Declaration
(日本語宣言書)

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POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (*list name and registration number*)
See list of attorneys and/or agents on page 5.

書類送付先

Send Correspondence to:

**ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI,
McLELAND & NAUGHTON**
1725 K Street, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20006

直接電話連絡先: (名前及び電話番号)

Direct Telephone Calls to: (*name and telephone number*)

Telephone: (202) 659-2930 Fax: (202) 887-0357

唯一または第一発明者名		Full name of sole or first inventor	
		Hiroshi Baba	
発明者の署名	日付	Inventor's signature	Date
		Hiroshi Baba	March 15, 2000
住所		Residence	
		Satsuma-gun, Kagoshima, Japan	
国籍		Citizenship	
		Japan	
私書箱		Post Office Address	
		c/o KYUSHU FUJITSU ELECTRONICS LTD., 5950, Soeda, Iriki-cho, Satsuma-gun, Kagoshima, 895-1493 Japan	
第二共同発明者		Full name of second joint inventor, if any	
第二共同発明者	日付	Second inventor's signature	Date
住所		Residence	
国籍		Citizenship	
私書箱		Post Office Address	

(第三以降の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

第三共同発明者		Full name of third joint inventor, if any	
第三発明者の署名	日付	Third inventor's signature	Date
住所		Residence	
国籍		Citizenship	
私書箱		Post Office Address	
第四共同発明者		Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any	
第四発明者の署名	日付	Fourth inventor's signature	Date
住所		Residence	
国籍		Citizenship	
私書箱		Post Office Address	
第五共同発明者		Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any	
第五発明者の署名	日付	Fifth inventor's signature	Date
住所		Residence	
国籍		Citizenship	
私書箱		Post Office Address	
第六共同発明者		Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any	
第六発明者の署名	日付	Sixth inventor's signature	Date
住所		Residence	
国籍		Citizenship	
私書箱		Post Office Address	

List of attorneys and/or agents

James E. Armstrong, III, Reg. No. 18,366; William F. Westerman, Reg. No. 29,988; Ken-Ichi Hattori, Reg. No. 32,861; Le-Nhung McLeland, Reg. No. 31,541; Ronald F. Naughton, Reg. No. 24,616; John R. Pegan, Reg. No. 18,069; William G. Kratz, Jr., Reg. No. 22,631; James P. Welch, Reg. No. 17,379; Albert Tockman, Reg. No. 19,722; Mel R. Quintos, Reg. No. 31,898; Donald W. Hanson, Reg. No. 27,133; Stephen G. Adrian, Reg. No. 32,878; William L. Brooks, Reg. No. 34,129; John F. Carney, Reg. No. 20,276; Edward F. Welsh, Reg. No. 22,455; Patrick D. Muir, Reg. No. 37,403; Gay A. Spahn, Reg. No. 34,978; John P. Kong, Reg. No. 40,054; and Luke A. Kilyk, Reg. No. 33,251.